

Juduser

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 10:25 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Fwd: OPPOSE SB16 HB5416 SUPPORT SB338 HB5415 HB5412

Please find my testimony below

Dear Sen. Witkos, Rep. Hampton, & Judiciary Members,

Please **OPPOSE** Senate Bill 16 AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

There is so much wrong with this bill it is hard to know where to start.

These so called 2022 “assault weapons” are in very common use. Even by citizens that are disabled and utilize stabilizing braces to overcome their life obstacles. Now, this committee will vote to expand the definition of so called 2022 “assault weapons”. These firearms are rarely, if ever used in crimes and are kept in great numbers by law abiding citizens. It is unconscionable that this legislative body would again target law abiding gun owners while the state continues to fail to prosecute roughly 70% of gun related charges.

Banning the lawful carry of firearms on public transportation and in certain public areas will only create more victims. Criminals will ignore these laws and use these areas to prey on a disarmed population. Many firearm owners are afraid to submit testimony, testify in person, or attend a rally due to the threats, harassment, and intimidation we face from supporters of these laws, passing this will only embolden these individuals more, some of whom have made direct threats toward sitting members of this body, while in attendance at a hearing.

Allowing law enforcement to stop anyone they suspect of possibly carrying a firearm and demand a permit without suspicion of a crime being committed is about as “show me your paper” as you can get. As a practicing

Jew I find it offensive such a measure is being proposed as a tool for bad actors in law enforcement to harass people which as history teaches us will be minorities at a disproportionate rate. This proposal is such a blatant violation of both our State and Federal constitutions, those who support it should immediately resign in shame.

The lone proposal in this bill that is good is the funding of the firearms trafficking task force. This is something that should have never been defunded, and is the only thing here that will actually impact criminals. The rest of this bill should be thrown out, along with whomever thought the rest of these proposals up.

This body has spent the better part of a decade thinking up new ways to harass and make life difficult for lawful firearms owners. None of the laws passed has done a shred to reduce gun crime in our state, in fact over the last 18 months gun and violent crime has increased. It is time to end the practice of demonizing, and making life harder for the law abiding citizens of CT who choose to exercise their constitutional rights, and start making life harder for the violent criminals. Anything less is completely irresponsible. Many of the proposals outlined here will have disproportionate effects on minorities and women, who are both choosing to exercise this right in ever growing numbers. Making an already complicated and expensive process even more complicated and expensive will have disproportionate effects on minorities and women, and those of you who support this, will own that.

Article First, Sec. 15: *Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.*

The hundreds of thousands of lawful firearms owners will be working this election season to ensure legislators who forget what both our State and Federal constitutions say are voted out.

I addition, please **OPPOSE** H.B. No. 5416 – AN ACT CONCERNING BULK PURCHASES OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS.

I also ask that you **SUPPORT** Raised S.B. No. 388 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.

SUPPORT Raised H.B. No. 5415 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

SUPPORT Raised H.B. No. 5412 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A RELIGIOUS HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

Jason L Levy

Weatogue, CT